

ESL Difficulties for Saudi Students: Problems and Solutions

"The limits of my language are the limits of my world." (Ludwig Wittgenstein). Most Saudi students who study abroad, finish their undergraduate degree in about eight years or so; instead of five years! Due to weakness in the basic English skills, because they didn't study it in early years of Elementary school. Studying language in early stages of life, help mastering it for all school years. Because at this age language develops faster with ease, as many experiments indicate.

What makes me write this paper, is to find best solutions for this dilemma. And to try to apply it in my country. For the benefit of all our high school and University students in particular. and I also try to find the suitable English teaching approach that makes English acquisition so easy and applicable. And for this case, I will talk about my own experience in studying English language in United States of America several years ago.

In this study, I will discuss different teaching approaches that I learned it at King Faisal University. Furthermore, I will use direct interviews with students and teachers from schools and Universities. I will also demonstrate questionnaire as well. In addition to that, I will use internet survey, and finally, I will try to come up with the right solution for this matter.

After this concise description about this paper, I should discuss some exciting Hypotheses and theories about second language acquisition!. In addition to that, I will talk about teaching approach which is suitable for young school learners, specially; the benefit of teaching English as a second language in Elementary schools.

I think children learn second language faster than adult " Children appear to be much more successful than adults in acquiring the phonological system of the new language; many eventually attain native-like accents. Most Children are ultimately more successful than adults in learning a second language, but they are not always faster. Adults appear to progress faster than children in the areas of syntax and morphology, at least in the early stages of learning." (*D. Krashen 94*)

That's why I advise to teach second language in elementary schools. As (Krashen) asserted ,too. Note that, children should lesson to English even before going to school; for the unconscious brain to get use to the sound of the new language. Furthermore, native or semi native teacher should teach them. So they can master the English language fast and with confidence. After that they can attend higher education with ease, and even they could get good grade when they plan to study abroad in English speaking countries!.

Some Saudi Clerks, appose to the idea of teach English at elementary stage; They are afraid that the ESL will affect their native language. I think studying ESL will not affect native language. Furthermore it is not prohibited in Islam to teach other languages in elementary school. (Ibn Othaimeen)

Language can be acquired by lessening, so it would not be forgetting for many years!. When I went to USA long time ago and until now I feel like I know American English vocabulary easier than British English ! By the way, I didn't stay there for long time. And I hadn't finished the (silent period) as D.Krashen described it.

To get rid of weak English in Saudi Arabia, we should permit teaching English as a second language in the 4th grade of the elementary school!. And with that we will make studying and teaching English in 6th grade and secondary school very easy. On the other hand, English is the science language. That is what my outcome data indicate : (85% yes, 15% no).

References:

(Ludwig) (Wittgenstein)

(Stephen D. Krashen 94)

(Ibn Othaimen) <http://mosafer10.arabblogs.com/archive/2008/4/540270.html>

(cook, Applied Linguistics, 2010)

(George Yule) The Study of Language

(Eva M. Fernandez and Helen Smith Cairns) Fundamentals of
Psycholinguistics

(ALAN DAVIES) An Introduction to Applied Linguistics

(H.DOUGLAS BROWN) PRINCIPLE of LANGUAGE LEARNING AND
TEACHING